

REMARKS

Claims 17-21, 23-25 and 27-34 are pending.

The Examiner's allowance of claim 22 if written in independent form has been acknowledged with thanks. Applicant's review of the cited prior art is consistent with the Examiner's observation on page 5 of the Office Action. Specifically, the cited prior art does not teach calculating costs of service for each paying user based on the time each of the paying user uses the service. This limitation has been incorporated in independent claim 17. Accordingly, it is believed that independent claim 17 is now in condition for allowance. Further independent claims 23, 27, 30, 31 and 32 have been similarly amended. Claims 31 and 32 have been amended to clarify the costs of service will be based on a measure of use in each paying user. This, too, is believed not to be disclosed or suggested by the cited references. Measures of use are disclosed throughout the application and include time, maintenance and services as well as messages to access such as further enumerated in new numbers in independent claims 33 and 34.

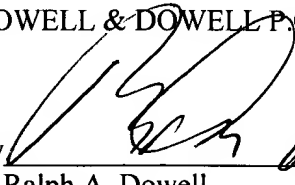
Amendments to correct clerical informalities have also been made for claims 27, 29, 30 and 32. Claim 26 has been cancelled.

No new matter has been added by these amendments.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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